

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated January 25, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 55-66, 71-74.

Claims 42-63 and 67-71 are rejected. Claims 64-66 and 72-74 are objected to by the Examiner. With this response, claims 42, 55, 64, 66, and 71-73 are amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-77 remain pending in this application with claims 1-41 and 75-77 having been previously withdrawn from consideration.

In the Office Action, claims 55-63, and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; claims 42, 44-48, 50, 52, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001-356353 to Satoshi et al. hereinafter ("Satoshi"); claims 42, 44, 45, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0062787 to Hashizume (hereinafter "Hashizume"); claims 43 and 67-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoshi or Hashizume in view of U.S. Patent 6,129,804 to Gaynes et al. (hereinafter "Gaynes"); and claims 48-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoshi in view of Hashizume and JP09-061829 to Satoru et al. (hereinafter "Satoru")

Claims 55 and 71 have been amended to correct the inadvertent errors identified by the Examiner. Applicants submit that claims 55-63, and 71 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and that the claims are each allowable.

The rejections to claims 42-54 and 67-70 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Applicants submit that the cited references including Satoshi, Hashizume, Gaynes, and Satoru do not teach the combined features of the claims.

Independent claim 42 recites a method for fabricating a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel using a substrate bonding device having a combination of features including "wherein the lower chamber unit includes an upper surface and a lower chamber plate movably supported on the lower chamber unit upper surface" and "moving the lower chamber plate along the upper surface of the lower chamber unit thereby moving the upper chamber unit and the upper stage, and thereby positioning the first substrate to align with the second substrate." Applicants submit

that the cited references, including Satoshi, Hashizume, Gaynes, and Satoru, analyzed singly or in any combination, do not teach or suggest at least the above quoted combination of features recited in claim 42. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 42, and claims 43-54 and 67-70, each depending from claim 42 are each allowable over Satoshi, Hashizume, Gaynes, and Satoru.

Claims 64-66 and 72-74 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but otherwise being allowable. Claims 64, 66, 72, and 73 have been amended to independent format reciting all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 65 and 74 depend respectively from claims 64 and 73 which are allowable and in independent format. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 64-66 and 72-74 are allowable and request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.


Applicants believe the above amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 24, 2007

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Application No. 10/661,515

Docket No. 8733.869.00

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